



## WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

### Thursday, June 13, 2019

**Commissioners Present:** Sanjita Pradhan, Heather Schott, Mark Hillenbrand, Lonnelle Dafney,  
**Commissioners Absent with notice:** Mindy Begenat, Bernell Edwards, Dr. Rich Salas  
**Staff Representative:** Laura Reveles  
**Council Liaison:** Councilwoman Renee Hardman  
**Guests:** Alex Cahill

**1. Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:45 p.m.

**2. Roll call**

**3. Approval of May 2019 Minutes**

Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand motioned to approve, Commissioner Lonnelle Dafney seconded, minutes approved

**4. Opportunity for public to address the Commission**

**5. Staff report**

- Staff liaison for the Commission Laura Reveles covered the following topics:
  - Phone Line: No messages
  - Budget Update
  - Race Forward: Building Racial Equity: Foundations
    - 4 City staff attended from the CORE Team
    - Discussed levels of racism particularly Institutional and Structural, exercises with our organizations and discussions on race and transportation, historical structural racism
  - DSM passed Housing Ordinance
    - Last week, the Des Moines City Council unanimously voted to add "Source of Income" as protected class under our Human Rights Ordinance. The protected class status means that tenants cannot be denied housing solely based on their legal income source, such as veteran benefits, alimony, housing choice voucher, social security, disability benefits, child support etc. This opens up more housing options to persons trying to move up the socio-economic ladder and offers them the mobility to live in good neighborhoods for their children's education. The ordinance addition goes into effect September 1st. More information to come.
  - This fall there will be two council seats and 3 park board seats up on the ballot. The filing period for paperwork is August 26 – September 19. One council seat is At Large and the other is 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward.
  - Officially passed 2 Administrative Policies: Anti-Bullying Policy for Youth and Single Occupancy Restroom at all City Facilities
  - June 22<sup>nd</sup> World Refugee Day, Councilwoman Renee Hardman will speak
  - Alex Cahill had the following updates:

- CORE Team, meet once a month for 90 minutes for strategy sessions for internal systems in the city with 2 co-chairs and one member from each affinity group
- National American Planning Association: Diversity, Equity and Inclusionary board member. Informed the commission of the strategies they are moving forward with on this work.
- Comprehensive Plan and the Demographic Document timeline is pushed back a month. We need to catch all the data points and is there any data we need to capture
  - Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan stated that once we see the draft we will have a better understanding of what we need
  - We will send that out, once in draft form
  - 64% students in elementary are ESOL, 55% are low socio-economic status

#### **6. Report from Commissioners on recent activities**

- Councilwoman Renee Hardman reported that City Council members went through a poverty simulation hosted by United Way. It was very eye opening going through the simulation

#### **7. Chair report: Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan**

#### **8. Old business**

- Taste of the Junction: Mark moved for \$1,000 donation and Lonnette seconded the motion. Heather noted an additional \$500 was awarded for 2019. Motion approved

#### **9. New business**

- Contract for Strategy Sessions: Heather motioned to approve the additional cost in contract, Lonnette second. Motion approved
- Speaker Jay Pryor, October 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Opportunity- table next meeting
- Event tomorrow night, Flag Day, City of West Des Moines Public Art dedication at 7:30pm

#### **10. Next meeting date July 11 , 2019, 5:00pm – 6:30pm**

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.

Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand moved to adjourn, Commissioner Lonnette Dafney seconded

**Minutes by:** Laura Reveles